

(c) Opening of residential schools for girls is the concern of the State Governments and UT Administrations.

Discipline in Universities

1624. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken specific steps to preserve discipline in the Universities and colleges in the country to maintain high standard of teaching; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) In pursuance NPE-86, the Government & UGC have taken several initiatives to improve the standard of education in institutions of higher learning. Some of the major steps taken in this regard are:

—Revision of pay scales of college and university Teachers w.e.f. 1-1-1986. Opportunities provided for training and career advancement for teachers. All-India Eligibility Test introduced to attract best talent to the teaching profession.

—Academic staff colleges established for re-orientation of newly appointed university and college Teachers.

—27 Curriculum Development Centres in Sciences and Humanities established to modernise curricula. Model curricula has been prepared for 27 disciplines in under-graduate and post-graduate courses.

—Financial assistance provided by UGC for improvement in teaching and research under Special Assistance Programmes, like Centres of Advanced Study, COSIP, COHSSIP, COSIST, etc.

—Inter-University Centres established by UGC to provide front-line facilities and services for advancement of research in the university system.

—Higher priority given to grant of autonomy to selected Colleges and University Departments.

—Guidelines for implementation of an Academic Calendar circulated. These guidelines emphasize observance of at least 180 teaching days by universities/colleges.

—Regulations for minimum standards for the award of first degree, minimum working days etc. notified by UGC.

News Item "Major Indus site Found in Kutch"

1625. DR. A. K. PATEL:

SHRI SHANKERSINGH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Major Indus site found in Kutch" appearing in the Times of India dated February 18, 1991;

(b) if so, the major finds of the Archaeological Survey of India in its aforesaid excavations;

(c) whether any archaeological/historical conclusions have been drawn from these discoveries in the direction of reconstructing ancient Indian history;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the agency which is doing the excavation and assessment work; and